Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 086291

EYES ONLY FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, KS, TH, JA

SUBJECT: EA SUMMARY FOR APRIL 16.

1. EDITORIAL COMMENT ON MANSFIELD APPOINTMENT (LOU)

EMBASSY TOKYO REPORTS THAT JAPAN'S EDITORIAL WRITERS HAVE REACTED TO THE MANSFIELD APPOINTMENT IN TERMS MORE FAVORABLE THAN ANY SEEN THERE, INCLUDING THOSE GREETING THE APPOINTMENT OF REISCHAUER. ALL CITED THE SENATOR'S PRESTIGE, INFLUENCE AND KNOWLEDGE AND TERMED THE APPOINTMENT AN UNPRECEDENTED SYMBOL OF THE IMPORTANCE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION ATTACHES TO THE US-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP.

2. SOUTH KOREANS ENCOURAGED BY THE NEW DELHI NACC MEETING (CONFIDENTIAL)

EMBASSY SEOUL REPORTS THAT SOUTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTRY
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OFFICIALS WHO FOLLOWED THE APRIL 6-11 NEW DELHI NACC MEETING BELIEVE THAT NORTH KOREA DID NOT GET THE DEGREE OF COOPERATION FROM THEIR SUPPORTERS THAT THEY HAVE RECEIVED IN THE PAST, AND MAY NOT HAVE BEEN AS VIGOROUS IN SEEKING SUPPORT AS THEY HAVE BEEN. THE SOUTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTRY UN DIVISION CHIEF SAID THAT THE NACC MEETING DID NOT PROVIDE A CLEAR INDICATION OF NORTH KOREAN INTENTIONS

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REGARDING THE KOREAN QUESTION IN THIS YEAR'S UNGA, AND SUGGESTED CONSULTATION AMONG THE CORE GROUP NATIONS WOULD BE USEFUL NOW IN ASSESSING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MILDER LANGUAGE ON KOREA PROPOSED AT NEW DELHI, NORTH KOREAN INTENTIONS, AND THE ATTITUDES OF NORTH KOREA'S NON-ALIGNED SUPPORTERS.

3. SOUTH KOREAN CAMPUSES TENSE IN ANTICIPATION OF APRIL 19 ANNIVERSARY OF 1960 STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS (CONFIDENTIAL)

EMBASSY SEOUL REPORTS THAT ANTI-GOVERNMENT STUDENTS AT VARIOUS CAMPUSES ARE STILL TRYING TO PROMOTE PROTESTS IN COMMEMORATION OF THE APRIL 19 ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1960 STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS. THEIR ATTEMPTS THUS FAR HAVE BEEN ABORTED BY THE POLICE, WHO IN ONE CASE PICKED UP THE "RINGLEADERS" AND IN ANOTHER SMOTHERED AN INCIPIENT DEMONSTRATION BY THEIR PRESENCE. WORRIED UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS ARE COUNTERING WITH PICNICS AND FIELD TRIPS, AND INCREASED HOME WORK. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE SOUTH KOREAN POLICE HAVE THINGS WELL IN HAND.

4. THAI POLITICAL DETAINEES (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

EMBASSY BANGKOK REPORTS THAT, ACCORDING TO THE THAI POLICE, ONLY 77 PERSONS OF THE 3,154 PERSONS ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE OCTOBER 6, 1976, RIOT AT THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY ARE STILL BEING DETAINED. ALSO, ACCORDING TO CONFIDENTIAL

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THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT (WHICH OPERATES THE PRISONS) 1,362 PERSONS ARE PRESENTLY BEING HELD IN DETENTION "AS PERSONS DANGEROUS TO SOCIETY" UNDER NARC ORDER 22. HOWEVER, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL SAYS THAT OF THE ROUGHLY 2,000 PRISONERS IN NATIONAL PRISONS ONLY 95 ARE BEING DETAINED UNDER SECTIONS OF NARC ORDER 22 PERTAINING TO "POLITICAL CRIMES." HE SAID ALL THE OTHERS ARE COMMON CRIMINALS OF VARIOUS TYPES. EMBASSY BANGKOK CONCLUDES THAT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S FIGURES OF 1,500 THAI "POLITICAL PRISONERS" STILL DETAINED WITH-OUT TRIAL AND ITS FIGURE OF 8,000 PERSONS ARRESTED AT THE TIME OF THE COUP IS GROSSLY INFLATED AND MUST REFER TO THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ARRESTS OF ALL PERSONS FROM OCTOBER 6 TO PRESENT.
CHRISTOPHER

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